

HB 1008 -- Instruction in Human Sexuality

Sponsor: Smith (85)

This bill changes the law regarding instruction in human sexuality and sexually transmitted diseases. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Requires the information provided be age appropriate and based on peer-reviewed projects with demonstrable effects on healthy behavior;
- (2) Changes the requirement to present abstinence as the preferred choice of behavior by deleting the discussion of emotional trauma and risk of dropping out but retains that abstinence is the only sure way of avoiding pregnancy and infection;
- (3) Repeals the provision requiring students be presented with information on contraceptives and pregnancy in a manner consistent with the federal Abstinence Education Law and specifies that students must be presented with information on the health benefits and side effects of all contraceptives as a means to prevent pregnancy and infections;
- (4) Repeals the provision requiring the discussion of the emotional and psychological consequences of sexual activity and pregnancy and the advantages of adoption and specifies that students must be provided with information about the vaccine for human papilloma virus and its uses;
- (5) Requires the school to help young people understand the physical, biological, and hormonal changes of adolescence and subsequent states of maturation and the skills to make responsible, healthy decisions;
- (6) Requires teaching about the dangers of sexual predators, including online predators, and methods to remain safe on the internet, and the personal and legal consequences of inappropriate text messaging;
- (7) Requires the names and affiliations of presenters of information to be disclosed before the instruction occurs; and
- (8) Repeals the provision prohibiting schools from providing abortion services or allowing providers of abortion services to present or furnish materials.